

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXV.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 1907.

No. 2

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome.....	17
Leading Articles:—	
Community of National Interests.....	18
China Association, Hongkong (1).....	18
Considerations Often Overlooked.....	19
China Association, Hongkong (2).....	20
China Association, Hongkong (3).....	20
Hongkong Sanitary Board.....	21
Supreme Court.....	22
China Association.....	23
Correspondence.....	25
China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd.....	26
Commercial.....	26
Shipping.....	28

BIRTH.

On January 3rd, at the Southern Presbyterian Mission, Soochow, the wife of the Rev. P. C. Dr. ROSE, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

On December 31st, at Shanghai, EDWARD MORDEN REYNOLDS to ETHEL HOLMES.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English mail of 14th December, arrived per the ss. *Arcadia* on Thursday, the 10th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. J. R. M. Smith, manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, returned to Hongkong yesterday after a holiday at home.

Messrs. F. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of private telegraphic advices from Shanghai, informing them that there will be no interim dividend of the Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.

On Jan. 10 H.E. the Officer Administering the Government, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, paid a visit of inspection to the works of the Kowloon-Canton railway, spending the whole day in the New Territory.

The Chinese Government has fixed January 14th as the day on which Changchun (Kuang-chengtsse), Kirin, Harbin, Tsitsihar and Manchuria will be opened to foreign trade. The acquiring of land by foreigners will, however, not be permitted until special regulations have been published about the creation of settlements.

A meeting held at Sir Paul Chater's office a few days ago at which many prominent citizens assembled decided to telegraph for the Duke of Connaught's sanction to hold a ball at the City Hall in his honour, at which the whole party will be entertained. This, it was considered, would not trespass on the Duke's time on his official visit here, and it is hoped that a favourable reply will be received.

Residents in the Colony will doubtless welcome the news that by the month of April the Tytam Tuk Scheme for an additional water supply will be completed, and that the water should be turned on that month.

The "Protector," having taken in hand the salvage of the "Kwong Chow" after the abortive efforts of Chinese salvors, succeeded in bringing the sunken vessel to the surface and conveying her to a spot near Laichikok where she is beached. Her upper structures are badly damaged, but the repairs to the hull and to the engines will not be so difficult. No bodies were found on the vessel when she was raised.

It is officially notified in the *London Gazette* that the King has been pleased to give and to grant unto Sir Robert Hart, Bart., G.C.M.G., Inspector-General of Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority that he may accept and wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of Leopold, conferred upon him by his Majesty the King of the Belgians, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him to his Majesty.

There is not very much of moment in the annual report of the Odd Volumes Society, received this week. We may quote, perhaps, the justifiable little trumpet blast contained in the following remark: "The recent Arts and Crafts' Exhibition was originally started under the auspices of this Society." The duties of the honorary treasurer, Mr. W. H. Purcell, appear as light as those of Mr. H. E. Pollock, the honorary secretary. He shows a balance in hand of \$385.

The general meeting of the Kawasaki Dock Yard Company, of Kobe, adopted a resolution to add to the company's business the manufacture of steam engines, railway carriages, tyres, axles, electric motors, military arms and steel works. An amendment of the Articles of Association of the company was agreed to accordingly. The net profit of the company for the last half-year has amounted to ¥459,639 including a surplus of ¥58,367. Of this sum, ¥50,000 has been placed to the reserve, ¥30,000 to the special reserve, ¥20,000 to the reserve for the depreciation of buildings and machinery. The sum of ¥226,000 was set aside for dividend, and ¥56,800 for extra dividend, making the total dividend 12.56 per cent. per annum. ¥20,000 was devoted for bonuses to officials, the balance being carried forward.

The following letter to the Governor from the Secretary of State explains itself:—"Downing Street, 30th November, 1906. Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches No. 338 of October 4th and No. 262 of October 22nd in which you report the effects of the Typhoon which passed over the Colony on September 18th. 2. I have already expressed the deep regret with which His Majesty's Government have received the intelligence of the loss of life and damage to property caused by this catastrophe. 3. I note with great appreciation the testimony which you bear to the conduct of Government officers and other members of the community in connection with the typhoon and I have to convey to you my cordial approval of the measures which you have taken. I have, etc., ELGIN."

The plan of Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, to render the building of the Hankow-Szechuan Railway possible through a foreign loan, meets with the greatest opposition from the officials and the gentry in Chengtse, which Viceroy Hsi Liang is apparently unable to overcome. At the same time, however, great difficulties are encountered with regard to collecting the land taxes which have been ordered for the railway fund in Szechuan. Consequently the scheme of connecting Hankow with Szechuan by a railway does not seem to be feasible for the time being.

According to the regulations of the Civil Administration, the land at Dalay is allotted to people under lease not purchase, and the fee is divided into classes, from two and half to ten cents per six square feet per month. There are 6,700 Japanese, 4,300 Chinese, 4 Britishers, one German and one American registered. Most of the building materials are imported from Japan, the price of the Japanese fire bricks is from \$80 to \$120 per 10,000 pieces, while the native made bricks cost \$30 only. The wages for the Japanese workmen are \$1.50 per day, but the natives get from 35 to 75 cents. Water works and gas works will not be fitted up for some time. The Japanese are busy with the erection of shops and building of roads. There are in the port many hotels, in all about a hundred, and a similar number of drinking saloons. Small traders are noticeable in the market; business is at present transacted between the Japanese only.

SIR MATTHEW NATHAN HONOURED.

A telegram to the *Daily Press* dated London, January 9th, said:

His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan has been made Lieutenant Colonel.

[His Excellency, who has been Governor of Hongkong since 1903, entered the Royal Engineers in 1880, and saw active service with the Nile Expedition in 1885 and the Lushai Expedition in 1889, for the latter of which he holds a medal with clasp. He became captain in 1889, major in 1898, and now, nine years later, he has secured a further well-deserved promotion. He was secretary of the Colonial Defence Committee from 1895 to 1900, and afterwards filled the post of Governor of the Gold Coast.]

THE OPIUM TRADE.

A telegram to the *Daily Press* dated Shanghai, January 9th, said:

Thirteen firms representing all Britishers interested in the opium trade have addressed a letter to Sir Pelham L. Warren, H.B.M. Consul, stating that their present holdings in Hongkong and Shanghai are approximately valued at 10,000,000 taels. They claim a hearing with regard to the manner in which the intended extinction of the trade is to be effected, and urge that it should be gradual. They ask for the views of the British Government.

COMMUNITY OF NATIONAL INTERESTS.

(Daily Press, January 7th.)

M. GAUDIN DE VILLAINES has proved somewhat of an advocatus Diaboli for his own side in the French Chambers lately; and succeeded in so mixing up two entirely irrelevant subjects that both were reduced momentarily to the level of a comedy. The Government, he alleged, was carrying on a British policy abroad and an anti-Catholic policy at home. That the two were in any way correlated seemed so utterly absurd that a few words from M. CLEMENCEAU turned the whole force of M. DE VILLAINES'S artillery against himself. But looking calmly on the situation, is there any reason for suspecting that the work of France, even in carrying on British policy abroad, in any way acts disadvantageously to herself? The same remark was made in England on the first announcement of the alliance, namely that England was acting in the interest of France without adequate return, and M. DELCASSE appropriately commented on this, that the gentlemen who thought so were evidently unaware of the nature of a bargain, in supposing it could exist if it had only one side, or that advantages on one side were necessarily correlated with disasters on the other. The basis of the understanding came to on both sides was that there were a number of particulars in which the interests of the two countries were so thoroughly identical that it would be well to consider whether both could not be better advanced by amalgamating than by acting separately and independently; and so avoiding that clashing on merely subsidiary details which had frequently interfered in preventing cordial union. From the very necessity of closing up the ranks these details had to take second place, but the result was a much more effective front: if France then were doing abroad England's work, she was *pari passu* urging on her own. This had been evidenced at Algieras, where the united front shown by the two Powers had more than anything else been instrumental in dissipating the clouds of suspicion with regard to the future intentions of France that for a time hung over the political horizon of Europe. With regard to the religious question the people of England have all through refused to look upon the strife with the Vatican as having within it any religious element whatever; the Protestant people of England have long desired to be on better terms, religiously and socially, with the great Catholic people of France, but this rapprochement has always been prevented through the political machinations of the Vatican;—so far and so far only can the political tendencies be brought in contact, and it is only on this ground that English public opinion has ever ventured to discuss the French movement. Thus M. VILLAINES'S motion intended to hamper his government at home, and do dishonour to his country abroad, has had the singular effect of bringing into prominence the benefits already incident to both in the Accord. The question, to which he demanded a categorical answer—yes or no, brought into still greater prominence his want of political sagacity which cannot but fail to react on the party he professes, no doubt truly, to represent. He wanted to know if there existed a military convention with England? Of course if M. CLEMENCEAU had said yes, he would have told a deliberate untruth; and this was well known to M. DE VILLAINES'S inspirers. If on the contrary he had said no, he would have been guilty of a constructive lie. The

fact, of course, is that in the interest of the alliance each nation is bound to do all it can by peaceful methods to uphold it; and if in the task it should honourably be called upon to oppose any infraction by force, it would plainly have to take the risk of ulterior measures. This is a very different thing from an offensive and defensive alliance, though the issue might eventually be the same. A similar question put likewise to embarrass the British Government was lately asked in the House of Commons regarding the imaginary case of Japan going to war with the United States, and was answered in a somewhat similar manner. Neither alliance was made with the intention of forcing either of the parties to it to enter into a war for the sole purpose of gratifying some whim of the other, so that the definite answer of yes or no could not be given until the whole case came actually under discussion. A government is certainly entitled to take measures to defend itself against insidious attacks of such a nature, and in both cases the Governments found themselves supported by the commonsense of their legislatures.

But the incident in the French Chamber has not been without its practical issue, for it has set both nations thinking whether a still further development of the community of interests between the two might not be found advantageous to both in the long run. The suggestion comes from the *Times* correspondent. In the recent outturn of events France and England have found their financial policies so nearly identical that an undoubted evil to both was caused by a financial measure on the part of England in preserving her own credit. England had to raise the rate of discount to an abnormal rate. The measure was not taken against France, who suffered nearly as much inconvenience from it as did England herself. Now if England, the writer suggests, had had a financial as well as a political accord with France, the raising of the rate would have been superfluous, or its incidence would have been greatly reduced to the no small benefit of both countries. Why should not such a thing be possible? Theoretically there could be no objection to such a course, but here again the making of a hard and fast rule might cause untold ruin if either should temporarily lose its head. This then, would be another instance of the truism we have mentioned, that agreements which leave no room for the exercise of discretion on either side are in no case to be recommended between nations,—as in themselves bound to lead to the very differences they were presumed to render impossible. The very best insurance against such an untoward event is the community of interest, not the fact of the agreement in words; and with this community of interests acknowledged and felt by both, details of the exact course to be taken in altogether unforeseen and unforeseeable emergencies may well be left to the discretion of the moment. A law devised to cover every emergency which may possibly happen is bound to break down when put to the actual test of experience. And this must ever be the case with artificial accords made like swivels to suit all emergencies.

While a gang of coolies were carrying out excavation work at the Protestant cemetery, Happy Valley, on Monday, for the purpose of levelling the burial ground, a mass of earth slid away from the hillside carrying one of the men with it. In the descent he was struck on the head by a large stone. A gipsy was promptly procured and he was despatched for hospital, but died on the way.

CHINA ASSOCIATION, HONGKONG. (1)

(Daily Press, January 8th.)

It is almost unfair to the eloquent speech of the CHAIRMAN of the Hongkong China Association to subject it to any sort of analysis. Such speeches are perhaps not meant to stand it. The compound is delightful; the mental chemist may find its components thin. It enjoys the qualities and defects of a typical "editorial", in which the writer lays down one or two obivalties, as a Highlandman is supposed to lay down a couple of swords, and shows his agility and skill by dancing over and about them without touching them. As Mr. BALLOCH hinted, Mr. MURRAY STEWART perhaps had excellent reasons for not wanting to touch them. This analogy brings us back to the point that it is perhaps unfair to the oration to dissect it. The analyst, were he also a phrasemaker, might describe it as a fine monologue full of pretty but not always trustworthy analogues. Someone has emphasised "alliteration's artful aid"; Mr. STEWART'S analogistic arguments were also artful; but we fear that a severe logician would say they were no more conclusive than if they had been merely alliterative. Risking the unfairness already admitted, we will dwell on a few of his points. We fancy we shall find examples where his own weapons might be turned against himself. Analogisms are the edged tools of logic. Harping on what is now familiarly mentioned as the Customs Edict, the CHAIRMAN remarked that a true Chinese patriot would not have begun a scheme of reforms by tackling the Customs; he would have tackled first some other of the departments that sadly require amendment. From his point of view, which we, of course, share, that is quite right; but the Chinese would not have to seek far for pretty analogies with which to upset it. They might compare the Customs to a nest-egg. "Let us take this excellent egg, so admirably and kindly fashioned by the foreigner", they could argue, "and let us put it in the nest of our dilatory hen, so that she will more easily realize her obligation in the matter". They could also, by using Mr. STEWART'S evidently favourite style of argument, recall how it is better for the 'prentice hand to begin work on an article "started" for him by the skilled journeyman than it is for him to begin operations on a block of raw material. On this same subject of the Customs Edict, the CHAIRMAN seems to have misunderstood some at least of the critics of the Association's attitude. For ourselves we never quite got rid of the feeling that too much was made of the incident. The fuss was too great seeing that it was motives, more than acts, that were protested against. The CHAIRMAN himself refers to motives; he believes that the assurance subsequent to the pothier war "probably meant to be" an insult to foreigners. There, we honestly believe, the verbal fundangoist has made a miss-step; it is fortunate perhaps that the swords he danced over are somewhat blunted. With regard to that Customs Edict, we felt no alarm: our position was exactly similar to Mr. MURRAY STEWART'S with regard to the Opium Edict. We took the motives for granted; if Mandarinism's motives could kill, there would be very few living specimens of the foreign devil to be found in China. But they don't, so we decided (to use the CHAIRMAN'S own words as applied to the Opium Edict) that "when they have shown that they are in earnest . . . it may perhaps be well for the British Government to take some

action in the matter". The answer of the CHAIRMAN to this will be, of course, that Mandarinism was therein shown to be in earnest, and that it was therefore necessary for the China Association to press for Imperial intervention. In that case, the severely logical may perhaps ask him where the earnestness of the Opium Edict can be shown to fall short of the earnestness of the Customs Edict.

We join issue, if there be an issue, with those critics who deny the usefulness of the China Association. The CHAIRMAN claims that it is at least as useful as the Japanese shrapnel which, missing the snipers on the gate-tower, gave such an excellent object lesson in the heart of the Forbidden City itself. That, by the way, was another of Mr. STEWART's pretty analogues that may be seen as a two-edged weapon, or a sort of boomerang. It would be grossly hypercritical to demand of him where else he expected shrapnel to drop; we are quite sure he did not mean his auditors to think he wanted shrapnel aimed at the wall itself; but we will point out that his reference to the feelings inspired by it would lose all its force if applied to a people with a stiffer lip. Such ruin in a warlike people's sanctum might inspire greater determination to resist; assume that the British Foreign or Colonial office is less easily intimidated than Mandarinism, and we see the flaw in this demonstration of the Association's usefulness. Its representations, we hope, will never come to be regarded as shrapnel; we hope that five unfortunate words used by the CHAIRMAN may never be dragged from their context and applied to the Association—the five words being "we grumble; that is all." As he himself said, "it should be one of the aims of the China Association to correct this error"—the error of Home-staying critics who write of "the shrieking colonists of Hongkong"—and that aim can best be reached by a scrupulous care, and dignity, and restraint, in joggling the elbows of the powers that be. It should most decidedly not be the aim "to persuade the Home folk that we [China Association] are . . . men of like passions with themselves." They must be persuaded, as far as possible, that the China Association has no passions at all, but rather that it combines within itself all the "savvy" of the man on the spot, with the dispassionateness, of a disinterested and distant observer. Its patriotism can then be taken for granted. We do not think that the critics who charge our colonials with race-hatred deserve all the notice given them by the CHAIRMAN. The critics who deserve attention, if it be not egotism to say so, are those who deprecate the first semblance of fuss or hurry or magnification, of molehills. The speech we are, somewhat unfairly, analysing, shows us the CHAIRMAN taking Mandarinism's bad motives too seriously and its good motives too sceptically. We have all sinned in much the same way, but then we are not all chairmen of the China Association's branch here. In such a responsible office we expect more; the CHAIRMAN ought to be something more than mortal. Caesar's wife must be above suspicion.

There are many other passages earmarked for criticism or comment, appreciative and otherwise, but we have space only to refer to one more. In claiming that all the criticisms of the Chinese Government were directed by a same view of what constitutes genuine friendship for China, Mr. MURRAY STEWART was certainly not obliged to indicate the possibility of other points of (same) view. Repudiating earlier all suggestions that the Association is unfriendly

to China, he pointed out what harm, in loss of credit and so on, would have resulted if Mandarinism had succeeded in doing to the Customs Service what he believes it tried to do. And he remarked, "it is a strange sort of unfriendliness that works to hinder the progress of such misfortunes." It is not at all strange, really. The unfriendly friend will be common to man so long as the road to Hell continues to be paved with good intentions. JOHN STUART MILL has dealt faithfully with the type; the well-meaning person who wants to make us good and happy against our will and inclination. The late PHIL MAY drew a most funny illustration that fits. He depicted a London working man dragging his little boy along the Brighton beach, the child hanging back and weeping. The loving father's face wore a savage expression to fit the words: "I've brought yer dahn here ter enjoy yerself, and enjoy yerself yer shall, or—." That helps to realize China's point of view. The ideal policy for the China Association outlines itself in our mind somewhat to this effect—to avoid any philanthropic pose, to be honestly and avowedly an Association concerned only for the good of British trade and other interests out here, to hold a watching brief, to calmly assert itself (the metaphor breaks down) as an expert witness, not Chauvinistic but patriotic, not banging the war-drum at the first pin-prick, but watching both ends of the line carefully, and speaking, when the real need seems apparent, with the deliberation that commands a respectful hearing. We have never, as some have done, put it on a level with the geese that saved Rome. Its function is not altogether that of a sentinel hailing each new movement or policy with a peremptory "who goes there?" Although the simile does not fit at all points, we would like to regard it as sharing the task of the skilled general who surveys the opposing forces from a height, and who, noting the varying developments of the battle, directs his orderlies accordingly. But the China Association may not direct, it may only suggest. It cannot even be said to be on the staff. Very often it chafes at its own impotence, but that is because it naturally wants to see the orderlies galloping off at once as a result of its suggestions. That is a little unreasonable. It is thinking of a regiment only; the general has the whole brigade to think of. Sometimes the general may seem very thickheaded and stiff-necked, but it has to be remembered that after all his is the responsibility.

CONSIDERATIONS OFTEN OVERLOOKED.

(Daily Press, January 9th.)

One of the greatest difficulties which stands in the way of improvement in the administration of China is undoubtedly the heterogeneous nature of the population of the Empire. To the ordinary observer it might appear that the Chinese are one of the most homogeneous nations upon the face of the earth. To an outsider, it would seem that, go where you will, you find the Chinaman and his ways one and the same. But this impression is in reality the effect of a mental delusion, not unlike the optical delusion which makes all Chinamen seem alike to the new comer. In reality the Chinese in different provinces are as diverse as the inhabitants in various parts of Europe. It is true that some broad features of character are common to all, but there are local modifications, which are as

marked as those which differentiate the various nations say of Northern and Southern Europe. This is naturally not so clear to the foreign observer as it is to the Chinese themselves; but the latter draw very accurate distinctions between the inhabitants of various parts of the Empire; and in doing so, show enough of human nature to entertain a wholesome appreciation of those belonging to their own districts and a corresponding contempt for those from other parts. It is not by any means the Foreign Devil who is alone looked down upon by the average celestial. The Chinaman has a similar narrowness of mind in respect to his own countrymen—and very few Chinese are found who fully believe that any of their compatriots come up to the standard of those who have been fortunate enough to be born in the Province to which they themselves belong.

This provincialism is not merely a matter of disposition or taste; but also finds its way largely into political life. Local interests have become largely developed during the centuries that China has been dependent upon very slow and defective means of inter-communication. Although the system of changing high officials from time to time is adopted in order as far as possible to counteract these influences, they are always such as have to be reckoned with at headquarters; and the Chinese officials are too wise to incur needless opposition by going counter to local feelings where it is possible to avoid doing so. In this manner China, centralized though it may appear to the outside observer, is in reality very largely in the nature of a confederacy of individual states, over which the imperial hold is by no means so strong as it seems to be. Instances have been known where the local power of the inhabitants has been so great that they have been able to refuse to receive governors appointed from Peking; and a case is on record and is mentioned by Huc where a Provincial Official who was unacceptable was simply sent back to Peking by the people over whom he had been appointed to rule. The manner in which the Empire has been maintained has always been a matter of surprise to those who are acquainted with the nature of the system which actually exists. It is notorious that no very strong feeling of patriotism is to be found among the masses in China, nor is there any great love for the Dragon Throne; but there have nevertheless been certain forces at work which have kept China together as one nation in spite of influences which would have been sufficient to cause disruption in any other country. One of the chief combining forces has undoubtedly been the innate respect which all Chinese have for authority and their desire for prosperity and quiet rather than national glory or advancement. They are inclined to make the best of a system, of whose defects they are well aware, rather than make any great sacrifices for its improvement. Another element which has kept China together is the force of a common language and literature. The spoken dialects in different districts are as wide apart as many European languages. But the written language is the same everywhere. This latter fact has tended perhaps more than anything else to keep China together—and it is a force which may be reckoned upon probably for many years to come. What are now only individual provinces under the central government would in all likelihood long ago have been separate nationalities each with its own language were Chinese writing on a phonetic instead of an ideographic basis. As it is the written character is common to the whole empire

and thus the power of language—one of the greatest factors in nationality—is in the direction of centralisation.

With the knowledge of the state of the country which the Chinese Officials necessarily possess, it is not surprising that they should hesitate to introduce any new system such as that of representative institutions, which might interfere with the existing state of affairs and diminish the centralising influences upon which they rely and which have stood them in such good stead in the past. It is considered by them, that the only form in which it would be possible to introduce representation would in the first instance be by the establishment of Provincial Councils—Parliaments as we should call them—to advise the Viceroys of the different provinces; and they are not unnaturally apprehensive that this might give more power, than they at present possess, to the Provincial Officials, and thus end in a disruption of the Empire. The question with Chinese of the old school thus assumes something of the aspect that Home Rule does with us. In this they may be, and probably are, mistaken—but it is easy to understand how this idea comes to be held by them. They have been able hitherto to rely upon the centralising influences which exist, and consider it better to continue to do so than to make experiments in new methods, the bearing of which is, at least so far as they are able to understand it, doubtful. Representative institutions judiciously granted while the Imperial authority was still safeguarded might be the means not of diminishing but of increasing the latter. On the other hand there might be a danger that the power derived from consulting the voice of the people might be made use of to give preponderating influence to certain provinces and so be a source not of strength but of weakness to the existing government.

CHINA ASSOCIATION, HONGKONG. (2)

(Daily Press, 10th January.)

In dealing with his speech and some of the points made therein by the CHAIRMAN of the local branch of the China Association, we maintained a strictly academic tone, and explicitly pointed out that we were confining ourselves to the speaker's own method, the analogistic method, which as we also remarked, is a popular but unsafe method. Analogies, far more than figures, may be advanced to prove anything. It was because matters affecting China are so often, in default of the full information denied to the majority, treated in that (to us) inadequate way, that we ventured to point out the weakness of such a position. Unfortunately, and the misunderstanding has caused us pain, Mr. MURRAY STEWART has taken an inexplicably personal view of the comments, and has, by writing the letter published in yesterday's issue, made it desirable that we should go further into certain matters than we, on this occasion, had thought it necessary to do. We are accused of seeming to set our opinions above those of "every man who can in any sense be regarded as an authority on China". We plead guilty to that seeming. It is impossible in the nature of things to offer any opinion or criticism whatever (which we suppose a newspaper is expected to do sometimes) without seeming to assume supreme authority *pro tem*. A moment's reflection will satisfy any mind of this. The novelist who writes a mere story in the third person seems to assume omnipresence and omniscience; but it would be absurdly unreasonable to tax him with a wildly egotistic personal

claim to supernatural attributes. If we had confined our comments to a mere laudation of Mr. MURRAY STEWART's eloquence—this, by the way, is *not*, as he would say, said "with tongue in cheek"; the speech *was* an eloquent one—we should still have remained open to the accusation of seeming to set our opinion of what is eloquent over the opinions of every man who can in any sense be regarded as an authority on oratory. Surely this is obvious. The only way in which we could, apparently, have kept safe, would have been to ignore, as all our contemporaries did, the speech altogether. It seemed to us, however, a subject of immediate public interest.

Now we pass by a natural and short step to the one point which Mr. MURRAY STEWART in his letter treats with the seriousness it really demands, as between his and our view of the Customs Edict. He claims that his views "are simply the views of the representative men of the British Mercantile Community in Hongkong, Shanghai, and throughout the length and breadth of China". We prefer to speak of them as his views, but to avoid possible charges of perversion, we may point out that he describes them as the views of the Association as an Association. We will allow our readers to remember for themselves that any Association, even a newspaper, is built up of units, and they will easily pursue the implication. But now to come to this somewhat sweeping claim of Mr. MURRAY STEWART's. Again premising that any assumption of supreme authority on the part of the *Daily Press* is not deliberate choice but an academic necessity, we must remind the CHAIRMAN of the local branch of the Association that it is a risky thing indeed to claim that all authorities are with him. There are in things Chinese so many authorities and of so many sorts. The true authority is made, not born, but there are authorities who seem to think otherwise. The original and consistent view of that Customs Edict taken by this journal was not the gift of some special authority; it was empiric, based on some experience and some, as we very naturally claim, commonsense. But once more to adopt Mr. MURRAY STEWART's system of argument, and his implied definition of one kind of authority as men who have had "firsthand dealings with Chinese Officials", we suppose that Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON, C.M.G., may be accepted as coming somewhere in such a category. He was Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of China and Japan, and a Consul General in China for many years. The fortuitous arrival by last mail of the *Financial Review of Reviews* for December enables us to quote him as taking the same view as the *Daily Press* did. We attach no undue importance to the fact; the support of even such an authority does not prove us right; but we mention it as a concession to Mr. MURRAY STEWART's argumentative preferences. Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON says, in an article which we hope, after we have had time to digest it, to discuss with our readers, that "there have been entertained in some quarters that the new CONTROLLERS GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, appointed by the edict referred to, may attempt to divert the Customs revenue from its purpose. I think these fears quite groundless. Whatever their interference may be, it will not amount to that". He then gives his reasons, which we may leave over for the present. We suppose Mr. MURRAY STEWART will admit, even while contemplating his united body of authorities, that there is a conspicuous absence from his gallant army. We submit that there are

others. It can scarcely be a coincidence that the British Government, which sometimes has an authority or two among its servants, should have maintained the masterly inactivity in this particular which accords with our opinion and is contrary to that of Mr. MURRAY STEWART. We propose, as it is so timely, and bears on Mr. MURRAY STEWART's comments regarding China's financial credit, to discuss to-morrow Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON's reasons for holding the opinion which the *Daily Press* holds. In the meantime, we would earnestly express the hope that we may throughout be absolved from the charges advanced by Mr. MURRAY STEWART, that we "scoff" or "gibe" at anything or anybody. A sense of humour, a steadier recognition of the great variety of legitimate weapons of debate, and a determination to remember that, as we have so often reminded our readers, there is always more than one side to a question, other than our own,—these things should protect us from any more such distressing misapprehensions.

CHINA ASSOCIATION, HONGKONG. (3)

(Daily Press, 11th January.)

Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON, C.M.G., introduces the article briefly referred to yesterday with an interesting review in brief of the methods of Chinese finance, and the sources of Chinese imperial revenue. These are largely what they were nearly three hundred years ago, and are, we suppose, fairly well known to our readers. We pointed out two days ago, and Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON makes the same remark in the *Financial Review of Reviews*, that China is not a Kingdom, but an agglomeration of Kingdoms, and these are "all potentially wealthy in the productivity of the soil, and with a population of twenty to forty millions each". When the Imperial Government needs or desires more money, it applies to these "kingdoms", which always, after the usual protests, manage to satisfy Peking's demands. The Viceroys or Governors have various ways of raising this revenue; no two seem to work alike; and the only restriction imposed by the central Government is that such taxes are not to be levied as might cause riots or insurrections. Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON, by giving facts and figures of what has been done in the past, and by referring to present known conditions, shows that the yoke of taxation is even yet a long way off being too heavy for these practically self-governing provinces, and in fact, as he says, "bondholders may be absolutely at ease as to the sufficiency of their security". This brings us, and him too, to the arguments of Mr. MURRAY STEWART, Chairman of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association, which arguments, as we have submitted, are not endorsed by all competent observers, nor even by all the members of the China Association. Latterly the China Association, as some conceive, has been approaching the Home Government as one asking more than he expects to receive, emphasising its demands by a little exaggeration. Our first comments on Mr. MURRAY STEWART's speech were directed to the suggestion that this policy, in view of the objects and aims of the Association, and particularly of the desiderata mentioned in the speech itself, is not the best policy to pursue. We feared for it the fat of the shepherd who cried "wolf" once too often. Such fear may have been uncalled for, but in any case it was the sole mainspring and motive of our comments—a quite excusable motive, as

every member of the Association will doubtless acknowledge. As we showed yesterday, our motive was misconstrued in the most extraordinary and unpleasant manner. Referring to the Customs Edict, Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON says "it is not surprising that Chinese officials should nowadays claim to have a greater share in the control than they have hitherto cared to exercise, neither is it necessary to impute to them corrupt motives for so doing". Mr. MURRAY STEWART's grave mistake and injustice entitles us to again point out that it is not surprising that a newspaper should comment on a long speech reported verbatim in its own columns, neither is it necessary, or proper, to impute to it ignoble motives. However, we should concern ourselves more with the CHAIRMAN's arguments as to the effects and intentions of the Customs Edict, and to Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON's answer to such. Mr. MURRAY STEWART referred to China's alleged breach or intended breach of agreement, and the depreciation of China's credit thereby involved. Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON says:

"Granting the sufficiency of the security, what means are there whereby it can be made available for the service of the loans, supposing the Chinese Government were to default or be driven by imperious needs to use the Customs revenue for other purposes? The answer to that is that the contracting banks hold Customs bonds, duly signed by the authorities concerned, for the full amount of principal and interest, which by the terms of the loan contracts are available for payment of duties. The procedure, therefore, if the case were to arise, would be for the banks to sell these bonds to the merchants, to be used in their Customs business, and with the proceeds recon the bondholders. Such a course would be cumbersome, but it could be done, and the mere knowledge that it could be done would be sufficient to deter the Chinese from even contemplating default."

That is what we, as Mr. MURRAY STEWART now suggests, ridiculously venturing to entertain opinions at variance with his own, have said all along. We have never denied that the Chinese would like to be rid of foreign interference, but we were reluctant from the first to suspect them of the folly of believing that in the case of the Customs it could be practical politics. If for so believing we have become a laughing-stock to Mr. MURRAY STEWART and other well informed authorities, it is comforting to find one like Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON in our company, one who goes even further than we did, and cannot believe that the Chinese were "even contemplating default." To clarify our point in a phrase, we did not say Peking is too virtuous to do what Mr. MURRAY STEWART suspects it of, but that it was too sensible. Even a thief will let marked money alone, when he knows it is marked. We described Mr. MURRAY STEWART's fears as a little exaggerated: Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON thinks them "quite groundless," for this reason:

"The Customs revenue, though hypothecated for the service of the loans, has never, in point of fact, been directly appropriated to their payment. It is probably the opinion of some that Sir Robert Hart and his staff actually collect the revenue and hold it for this purpose. That is not so. From the first the Customs duties have always been paid into a native bank appointed for the purpose at each treaty port, and have been held to the order of the Chinese local official, who is termed the Superintendent of Customs. The function of the foreign staff is to see that the proper duties are so paid in before granting clearances to foreign vessels, but once the money is paid they have no concern with what becomes of it. Their returns of trade supplied to the Central Government through the Inspector General are, of course, an efficient check on the honesty of the local officials, but the disposal of the money is entirely a matter for the Chinese themselves."

With these reasons, we presume, the CHAIRMAN of the Hongkong branch would be familiar all along, and how he could expect the *Daily Press* to be covered with ridicule for attaching more importance to them than to his own analogisms we cannot imagine. Everybody who reads the papers knows that the Anglo-German Loan Agreements of 1896 and 1898 bound the Chinese Government to maintain the Customs service as it then was during the currency of the loans. Where has it failed? As we read it, Mr. MURRAY STEWART's speech chiefly alleges that they meant to fail, meant to commit default. Here we have found ourselves in the surprising position of sharing with Peking some of the discomfort caused by people persisting in the imputation of motives. Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON ignores motives, and dealing with acts, says the appointment of the Chinese Controllers does not necessarily import any material change in the validity of the security for the loans. It is admitted that Sir ROBERT HART is, and always has been, a servant of the Chinese Government. That unfortunate reference raised a howl among some of the less well-informed "authorities". Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON accepts it calmly, and admits moreover that Sir ROBERT HART has always, hitherto, been under the control of the Chinese Foreign Office at Peking. Now he is under the control of another office, a special Board. This change, said the Chinese, was a mere domestic detail. Mr. MURRAY STEWART thinks the explanation false. We would think the same, without hesitation, if there were not reasons for supposing it to be likely true. Thinking it somewhat of a mare's-nest, we might, if we had wanted to gibe and scoff, have anticipated the CHAIRMAN's free-handling of ridicule; but we do not even yet regard him or any other authority as making himself ridiculous by happening to hold opinions we do not endorse. There is always the chance that the Chinese are less shrewd than we think them, that they may show as more fools than knaves, in which case Mr. MURRAY STEWART will have been right, and we wrong. But neither will thereby appear ridiculous. Meantime, the only real danger, "if danger there be", which Mr. GEORGE JAMIESON sees, "would seem to be not so much of a tampering with the security for the loans, as of a lowering of the status of the Customs Service and consequent friction with the merchants". The difference between the control of the Waiwupu and the control of the Board of Commissioners does not at first sight appear sufficient to cause such a lowering of status. We are not convinced that the difference has not been exaggerated. At the worst, we have taken the liberty of criticising a speech. It came from the official mouthpiece of the local branch of an Association for whose opinions we and our public look with respectful eagerness. If, on analysis, we fail to find sufficient substance beneath the flow of words to reward us for the time spent in assimilating it, it is a disappointment. In this case we expected something better. Perhaps the general body of members might share some of that disappointment. There were indications in the report of the succeeding speeches that such was the case. But there was not, and is not, any question of "scoring" off individuals or jeering at an Association. It is only that, in the congregation of the devout, we sometimes don't like the sermon. Against the preacher personally, or against his gospel, the devout have nothing to say. It is as if, for criticising his sermon, this expounder had denounced us for atheism.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on January 8th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Lieut.-Colonel J. M. Reid, R.A.M.C., Dr. F. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar General, Hon. Mr. F. J. Badeley (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. H. McFarlane, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

LIMEWASHING.

Dr. Macfarlane wrote a minute relative to the limewashing of the houses at Kowloon City and Sham Shui Po, in which he stated that the bi-yearly limewashing for tenement houses had not been enforced. Instead, a yearly limewashing, combined with general cleansing, had been enforced. This was not so expensive to the people as the double cleansing, and he recommended that the same course be adopted for 1907.

Mr. L U CHU-PAK minute-d—I think limewashing may be dispensed with in these outlying districts. General cleansing under the supervision of the Board ought to be sufficient to keep these houses clean, which are in the majority of cases occupied by one family.

Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL—I agree with Mr. Lau Chu-pak.

The Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL asked if it was proposed to deal with these places differently to any quarter of the Colony.

The PRESIDENT—No.

The Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL—The limewashing of family houses is not carried out in any quarter of the Colony.

Dr. CLARK—Except by notice.

The Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL—I think the time has come when Kowloon and Sham Shui Po should be treated as the rest of the Colony. They should have this annual cleansing with limewashing. There have been complaints that the Sanitary Department required too high a standard, but I would suggest that Mr. Lau Chu-pak and Mr. Fung Wa-chun should go over and inspect the houses.

The PRESIDENT—Fifty per cent of the houses are occupied by more than one family.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Do I understand these houses are limewashed only once a year?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Under what regulations?

The PRESIDENT—The regulations of the Board.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Have the Board the power to override the standing regulations in outlying districts?

The PRESIDENT—They have.

The PRESIDENT moved that the recommendation of Dr. Macfarlane be adopted.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT seconded.

The Hon. REGISTRAR GENERAL was opposed to compulsory limewashing of any house occupied by only one family whether the house were clean or dirty.

The PRESIDENT—It is never done unless the house is dirty.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN said he disapproved of the limewashing unless a distinction was made between the houses.

On the vote being taken, four supported the resolution, and four opposed it. The recommendation was, however, adopted on the casting vote of the President.

COLONIAL CEMETERY BYE-LAWS.

The following report by the Select Committee on the Colonial Cemetery Bye-laws (the members of which were Messrs. Shelton Hooper and Lau Chu-pak, and Dr. F. Clark) was submitted:

The Colonial Cemetery is under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board and under the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. It is for the Board to fix a scale of fees for interment, etc., therein.

The schedule of fees now in force was framed by the Governor-in-Council on 16th January, 1843, and it is now necessary for the Board to fix a schedule and incorporate it in a bye-law. The schedule now in force refers to the Protestant cemetery, but there can be no doubt that the Colonial Cemetery is the one meant. On investigation it cannot

be learnt that any part of this cemetery has ever been consecrated, and is apparently available for the interment of any body irrespective of what their faith or religion may have been.

Portions of the cemetery have been reserved for the interment of Naval and Military and old residents.

There is no fixed rule as to what constitutes an old resident, but by custom it has generally been understood to mean 20 years' residence in the Colony. Formerly, to bury in this section required permission of the Director of Public Works, but now the Medical Officer of Health is the officer to give such permit, but no authority can be found for the change, and the distinction is not rigidly carried out, exceptions having been made. The fee for each grave space of 12 superficial feet for private individuals is now \$15, and we recommend that this be reduced to \$10.

Grave digging \$1. Exhumation of corpse \$5. Officers, non-commissioned officers and privates in the British Army, or Hongkong Volunteers and their families, officers and warrant officers and sailors in the British Navy and their families, and Colonial Government officers and their families are only charged 75 cents as against \$15 for private residents.

We consider this distinction need no longer be made, and that the fees should be the same as for private residents.

For permit to erect monuments over twelve feet superficial on private individual graves pay \$2 a foot for each excess foot of same; but, in cases of monuments over Government officers and their families' graves, no excess charge be made up to 24 superficial feet. These areas should be made to coincide by increasing the 12 feet to 24 feet.

The following are the number of grave spaces taken from 1st January, 1906, to 17th December, 1906: 120. \$15+\$1. 62; \$5+\$1. 25; \$1.00, 2; 75cts., 24; free, 7. Under the existing scale the fees paid amount to \$1,100; under the proposed scale the fees would amount to \$1,084.

The PRESIDENT—As far as I can see from studying the Ordinance, the sections dealing with cemeteries are 90, 91 and 92. Then there are certain bye-laws that come under the purview of the Board, but these apply only to Chinese cemeteries. I don't think the Board has any power under these bye laws to interfere with other cemeteries.

HON. MR. HEWETT—Wouldn't it be better to find out if we have that power?

The SECRETARY pointed out that they had at page 15, sub-section 29 which applied to all cemeteries.

The PRESIDENT—This matter came up before the Board on November 7th when it was agreed to appoint a sub-committee to consider and report on the question of fees of cemeteries. That committee consisted of Messrs. Hooper and Lau Chu-pak and Mr. Clark.

Members agreed that its report should be recirculated.

PROPOSED SEPARATION OF DAIRIES.

The following letter from the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., was read:

"The Secretary, Sanitary Board.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by my directors to bring to the notice of your Board the desirability of separating as far as possible the various dairies in the Colony and to ask if your Board can see its way to suggest legislation on the subject.

My directors are of opinion that such separation would tend to lessen to a great extent the danger of disease spreading through the intermingling of Chinese employees, which, in spite of all precautions, cannot be altogether stopped.

In the general interests of the Colony it is obviously advantageous to keep herds of cattle as far away from one another as possible, so that in the event of an outbreak of disease in any one locality the cattle in others would be less liable to attack, thus minimising the danger of a curtailment of the Colony's milk supply.—

I am, yours faithfully,

S. A. SETH,

Secretary."

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON minutely that the suggestion if carried out would diminish risk, but it did not seem possible for the Government to interfere directly as suggested. The Company however might take matters in their own hands and buy out the

dairies in their vicinity, and that being done the Government might withhold the sale or lease of land in the neighbourhood for dairying purposes.

Mr. HOOPER—I sympathise with the suggestion, but I don't see how it can be carried out.

The PRESIDENT—This is an application from the Dairy Farm which I think all of you have seen.

HON. MR. HEWETT—It has not been sent to me, Sir.

The PRESIDENT—Then I will read it (reads).

HON. MR. HEWETT—Has the Dairy Farm made the proposal that they should move away from the neighbouring dairies, or that the neighbouring dairies should move away from them?

The PRESIDENT—That the neighbouring dairies should move away.

HON. MR. HEWETT—I don't think that is a thing we could recommend.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I think it would be possible in licensing new dairies to take this into consideration, and advise accordingly in future.

The Dairy Farm Company are to be informed that their suggestion is hardly practicable.

THE BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

The following letter dated 17th December was submitted from Mr. Lau Chu-pak relative to sections 175, 153 and 154 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903.

The Secretary Sanitary Board, Sir—In reference to the compulsory provision of open spaces in the existing buildings, I have the honour to draw the attention of the Board to the great hardship and loss of money inflicted thereby on the owners and the danger caused to many old houses.

Under the previous ordinance (13 of 1901) all the corner houses, shallow houses and those having lanes at the back, private or public, were exempted from providing yards which are mere shafts adapted for the reception of household refuse as pointed out by the Medical Officer of Health. But under section 175 of the present Ordinance, though the back lanes give more open spaces than the law aims at obtaining, and afford a free current of air constantly circulating in the house, and are far better than yards, they are not counted as open space, and the owners are required to cut away half of the kitchen to comply with the law.

For some time this section has been enforced with discretion and consideration, and where exemption was advisable it was recommended by the Board and granted; but recently it has been very indiscriminately and strictly enforced, so much so that these applications for exemption take up nearly the whole of the Board's time at its fortnightly meetings. At the last meeting of the Board, when several of these applications were discussed, it was held that exemption was not permissible, as sub-section 4 of section 175 only provides for modification and modification does not include total exemption.

Practically it amounts to this: as long as some open space is provided, no matter if it be only one foot wide, the Board grants exemption because it is a modification, but in the case of a house, where it is structurally impossible to provide an open space, e.g., a triangular corner house, or where it is unnecessary to do so, e.g., a corner house with three sides well lighted and ventilated, a house opening into a private lane at the back, or a house having a wide street both in front and at the back, the Board has no power. Can anyone imagine a greater absurdity than this?

I think members are aware that it is absurdity causes a great loss of money to property owners and sacrifice of valuable land, as the compulsory provision of such open spaces would entail an expenditure of at least four or five hundred dollars a house, for structural alterations, a reduction of rent amounting to 10 or 15 per cent after the alterations have been carried out, and a total loss of rent during the time taken for such alterations.

I am sure it was never the intention of those who drafted the present ordinance, that modification should stop short of exemption, and I recommend for the earnest consideration of the Board, that, pending the investigation of the working of this Ordinance by the Commission, the Board should recommend the Building Authority not to take any action under section 175, in view of possible amendments.

With reference to sections 153 and 154 I beg also to suggest that no further action be taken in connection therewith, pending the recommendations of the Commission. I understand that up to date already above 20,000 cubicles, costing, on an average, \$5 each, have been removed, and if, in view of the recommendations of the Commission, the ordinance is amended to allow of the retention of cubicles, this money amounting to \$100,000 and more, as the enforcement of the law is pushed on, will have been wasted.

The Medical Officer of Health in a minute wrote that it was not in the discretion of the Board to do as suggested by Mr. Lau Chu-pak, nor did he think it would be wise to suspend all action under section 175.

The PRESIDENT—With reference to this letter I think it would be preferable for the Board to appoint a committee to consider such applications which practically take up half the business of the Board at every meeting. I move that a committee be appointed to consider applications made under sections 175 and 180 which are recommended for approval by the executive officers of the Board, and that the committee be empowered to deal with them.

HON. MR. HEWETT—Have we power to delegate such powers to a sub-committee, Sir?

The PRESIDENT—Yes; under section 15 which reads:—"The Board may by resolutions from time to time delegate any of its powers and functions to the Medical Officer of Health, etc."

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—I think the recommendation of my colleague is very reasonable. He does not ask us to wait very long, for the Commission will be soon finished.

The PRESIDENT—But it may be six months before the Government comes to a decision on the matter.

Mr. FUNG WA-CHUN—The sections mentioned certainly inflict great hardship on landowners and Chinese residents, and indirectly affect the revenue and prosperity of the Colony. It is a very serious question, and I don't think any harm can come by waiting one or two months.

The PRESIDENT—Definitely the law is laid down, and it is our duty to see it complied with. After the Commission has sent in its report it will probably take six months before a decision is arrived at by the Government, and in the meantime the Medical Officer of Health does not think it wise to suspend all action.

The Hon Mr. HEWETT said he was sorry to find himself in disagreement with his two Chinese colleagues. The report of the Commission would be ready shortly and would be presented to the Governor. No doubt it would take His Excellency some time before he took any action on the report, that was if he took any action at all. That being so, Mr. Lau Chu-pak's application practically amounted to the Board suspending the working of two or three very important sections in the ordinance for about six months. He did not think that was desirable, and he seconded the motion. Carried.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, January 7th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

OLD TRADEMARK CASE.

The application for leave to appeal arising out of a judgment in the action Leuba v. Ullmann, was continued before their Honours Sir Francis Piggott (Chief Justice) and Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge).

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., and Mr. H. G. Calthrop instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist), appeared for the appellants, Messrs. Ullmann and Co., and Mr. M. W. Stude, instructed by Mr. John Hastings, represented M. Leuba Frères.

Sir Henry Berkeley resumed his address, and the case was again adjourned.

Thursday, January 10th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A DISPUTED INSURANCE CLAIM.

The San Kwong Lee firm, piece goods dealers, formerly carrying on business at 352 Queen's

Road Central, and now at 63 Wing Lok Street, Victoria, brought an action against the Union Commercial Company for the recovery of \$5,555.55 due under an insurance policy. Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. E. J. Grist of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiffs and the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K.C. (instructed by Mr. Hursthouse of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley) appeared for defendants. From the statement of claim it transpired that the plaintiffs insured their stock and furniture for \$10,500 and as a fire had occurred in the premises and damage done to the extent of \$12,300, the proportion covered by insurance amounting to \$5,555.55, the plaintiffs asked for payment of the latter amount. The defendants had refused to pay, hence the action.

Mr. Slade explained that when the fire occurred goods to the value of the claim were on the premises, as would be proved by the only evidence available, the evidence of plaintiffs and the evidence of the books. These, however, were not now in his possession. They had been taken by the Insurance Company, who refused to give them up. In consequence they had been hampered in prosecuting the case and making up their claim. The fire took place some four or five days after Chinese New Year and while the shop was closed. Immediately after the fire plaintiff took his insurance policy, which he had stored in another house to the police together with the books of account which had been saved from the fire. A few days later he received his policy back from the police and was informed that the Insurance Company had got the books. When he went round to the office of the latter to claim his money, he was told to return in a day or two when the comrades of all the Companies concerned would be present. He did so and, going through the books there, made out that he had goods to the value of some \$13,000 on his premises when the fire took place. There was a discussion with the comrades, who maintained that that did not represent the actual value of the goods, and unless he reduced his claim he would not get paid, at least for a long time. The man having lost his all consented for the sake of immediate payment to reduce his claim to \$10,000. This claim was made out and then the defendants refused to pay, asserting that the claim was false. Plaintiff consulted a solicitor and a long correspondence ensued. He submitted that the defendants had treated the plaintiffs in a very high handed manner.

In reply to his Lordship it was stated that it was customary after a fire that the books should be handed over to the Insurance Company.

The case was adjourned.

CHINA ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HONGKONG BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held on Saturday afternoon in the City Hall. Mr. Murray Stewart occupied the chair, and supporting him were Mr. A. G. Wood, Mr. H. E. Pollock, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. D. R. Law. There were also present: Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. G. C. Moxon, G. Balloch, C. H. Ross, A. V. Hogg, J. P. Cochrane, A. Parlance and H. J. Butterworth.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, When a homeward-bound P. and O. vanishing in a sun-lit trail of smoke, carried your late Chairman away from the Colony and his duties devolved upon me for the sole though inadequate reason that all the other members of your committee were too busy to undertake them, I was reminded of the old story of Elijah being caught up in a chariot of fire, and of the predicament of his successor, left disconsolate in the light of prosaic day, encumbered with a mantle several sizes too large for him uneasily contemplating the difficulties of the post thus dramatically vacated. Such a far-fetched idea may seem to some of you, in the absence of any clear perception of the risks involved in your Chairman's duties, to require an explanation. That is not to be found in a desire unduly to magnify my

office. I do not wish to take too much upon myself. I do not forget that your confidence reposes on the knowledge that the risk of writing or saying the wrong thing and of thus committing this branch of the Association to a false position is reduced to a minimum by the wisdom in Council of the rest of the members of Committee. Indeed, it has been their support that has pulled me through, if indeed I have escaped, the risks to which I have alluded—risks increased by recent events.

China is changing. So are the everlasting hills. But China is changing in a rather more palpitating way. The fertilising stream of foreign commerce flowing evermore freely into the sluggish yellow river of the old national life has greatly altered its character; moreover its course has deviated noticeably of late as an unexpected result of the influence exerted by the erection in the North of the great Dai Nippon dam across Manchuria. The waters of the river have broken down the old banks in many places and the lower levels of the great Chinese Common are more than usually miry in consequence. It is not a new fancy that views the waste spaces—the long and dreary stretches of flat, boggy land—as a veritable Slough of Despond. But owing to the rising of the river the going is worse than ever. The old causeway of Force which used to lead through the Slough is submerged and abandoned, and the only way across is along paths not marked on any map—paths as slippery and treacherous as paddy bunds after heavy rain. It is annoying to find progress so slow, and disheartening to have to face the fact that these things have got to get worse before they get better. But there is this reflection to console us. When the river settles down into some new bed and the waters subside, the fields will be much more fertile than ever before. Remember that the stream which is causing the present inconvenience is a life-giving stream. The story of its origin and the rise and flow is the history of the world. You know the saying "History, so called, is but a comment on the history of commerce." It is an illuminating remark. The stream of commerce is the exciting cause of civilisation. When it flowed into China by land across Asia it stimulated into existence the civilisation with which we are familiar. When it was cut off through the breakdown of the old land routes this civilisation was arrested and remained for many centuries "marking time." Only when the stream eventually found its way round the Malay Peninsula and impinged upon the coast of Cathay from the South did the process of new birth begin. The events that have pursued each other during the last century with increasing rapidity to disturb the equilibrium of the Far East are merely the throes indicating the inevitable internal pang. Sixty years of open ports—a cycle of Cathay—has created a powerful commercial class in whose minds western ideas, long fermenting, have at last produced a remarkable brew of new wine. Its expansive force is telling upon the inelastic sides of the old bottles. These are strained almost to bursting point. When that is reached some say we shall all see red. I eschew prophecy as far as possible. I see only this.

The cleverer young men of the rising generation are pushing their way forward by new roads. The steep and stony steps up the paths of literary achievement are no longer the only way to influence and power. The man of action is coming to the front. The soldier is no longer despised. He is even encouraged and made much of. He is even paid. It would almost appear as if our old friends the *Literati* were being relegated to the back seats of honour. Many observers view these changes with concern. They see in them signs that China is transferring her allegiance from the old rule of propriety to a blind worship of force. There is danger in attaching too much importance to this view. It impresses too deeply the imagination of over-strained politicians. It weakens the knees of the foreign powers. On the other hand there is danger in attaching too little meaning to the manifest fact that the mind of modern Mandarinism is bent on the creation of big battalions, even more persistently than on the manufacture of small coins. I refrain from attempting to make a cheap point of comparison between the two.

That would seem like levity. But it is to be hoped that the soldiers are better stuff than the coins. In this matter the danger, to which we old foreign residents in particular are exposed, is in treating too lightly the idea of China profiting by Mr. Haldane's clear thinking and becoming a nation in arms. The mere fact that we are talking about it at all—to say nothing of the fact that the whole world is thinking about it—is a significant sign of the times. It was the risk of misreading these that constituted the danger I foresaw in taking up my present position.

Many other significant signs of the times have appeared in China during the year that has just closed. One of the most significant was the despatch of the late Commission round the world with the ostensible object of discovering some more suitable system than the old ways provide for storing the raw product of fermenting liquor already referred to. Many Far Eastern residents felt qualms about it. Pictures in the illustrated papers of the Commissioners junketing with the Prime Minister and other prominent politicians gave rise to fears that the attitude of the British Government in dealing with Chinese questions might not be strengthened thereby. There is certainly no evidence to show that it was strengthened. Whether it was in any degree weakened—a probable aim of the Commission, true to the traditions of its great Burlingham prototype—may some day appear. Some contemporary diarist may describe an offer of congratulations by the Commissioners to certain cabinet ministers on their efforts to reduce the already insufficient fighting strength of their own country and, with that, her overseas influence. He will not relate that he heard them add that China was steadily aiming in the opposite direction. He may not have noticed anything held in anyone's cheek. In the meantime it is noteworthy that the visit of the Commission took place in April and that the voice of the charmer was never so distinctly heard as in Peking during early May. The ninth of that month was the date of the Customs Edict. But we may perhaps indulge the theory that, whatever bye-products were hoped for from it, the main business of the Commission was to originate a method of retaining within bounds of safety the expansive political and economic forces set free by the action of foreign intercourse. Mandarinism's emissaries safely circumambulated the globe and duly delivered themselves of a report. An Edict has resulted. Its effect, I fancy, will be to create a certain number of poor copies of foreign political institutions. That prospect has nothing to do with this story.

In the first Anglo-Chinese war the mandarin in charge at Chinai in Chusan memorialised the Throne reporting that the foreign devils did not fight fair, and that he was consequently unable to repel them, inasmuch as they possessed ships capable of moving without sails. A second mandarin said that he had seen such ships and that he was quite prepared to make them. The first complainant was superseded in his command by this confident gentleman who proceeded to rig out some kind of a junk in the likeness of a foreign ship with two masts and a funnel. In a well at the lower end of the funnel he made a bonfire so that smoke appeared satisfactorily out of the top. He could not make out why the vessel remained stationary. Neither could the higher officials who had taken his promise. No one could realise that the driving power of the foreign devils' infernal invention was something unseen in the heart of the thing. Without the driving power of a national faith capable of lifting the individual up and enabling him to sink some part of his selfishness in higher aims for common good, no mere copying of external designs in social or governmental mechanism can avail.

It is difficult to make out, much less to steer, a safe middle course between sympathy with genuine patriotism and antipathy to a spurious article extensively masquerading as such. Many would be reformers may personally be honest but that must not obscure the fact that some of the changes which they aim at may not be genuine reform nor restrain anyone from opposing them. Take a case in point—the question that has exercised us all so much during the past year—the change wrought by

the Edict of the 9th May in the administration of the I.M. Customs. A true Chinese patriot honestly desirous of reforming the national institutions would not start by attempting to change the order obtaining in the only well-organised and honestly-administered government department. He would begin his crusade elsewhere. He would agitate for change where it is needed. He would agitate for it everywhere except in the Customs Service. Oddly enough, adverse criticism on the methods and motives of the Officials who instituted this raid on the Customs Administration has been misrepresented as a display of hostility towards the legitimate aspirations of the Chinese people, in fact as originating in an attitude unfriendly to China. Nothing could be further from the truth. As far as this Association is concerned it was and is our belief that if the raid had been completely successful China's credit would have suffered severely. In our view the ultimate effect would have been to hamper honest trade, to promote smuggling, to foster corruption. It is a strange sort of unfriendliness that works to hinder the progress of such misfortunes. An enemy wishing evil to overtake the old Middle Kingdom would have rejoiced in the complete success of the original aim of the Edict. Anyone who wanted to see China getting into a hopeless mess again would have welcomed the threatened upset. Precisely for the opposite reason we endeavoured to prevent it. We thought we saw clearly enough that the assurances offered were an insult to the intelligence not only of the British Mercantile community but of all foreigners. They certainly were. They were probably meant to be. But whether meant to be insulting or not there was never any doubt as to their business meaning, not at least in the minds of business men. In the mind of any business man it must, we imagine, have been clear from the outset that the assurances palmed off upon the Legation and quoted in the House of Commons, to allay public uneasiness in England, were false and fraudulent from beginning to end. Business teaches men to judge promptly and act swiftly. These were the qualities which might have saved the situation, before it developed out of all control. Now, people at Home who hear us complain say, Would you have wished England to risk an inconvenient war over the affair? This question is an annoying one. Englishmen in China seem to be regarded by many Home critics of Far Eastern politics as a particularly bloodthirsty lot. We are thought to be always wanting to make war. War is the last thing we want. We want our Treaty rights. If diplomacy cannot get these for us we grumble; that is all. We would not grumble even if it were not that diplomacy tries to treat us like children. To be told that the Customs Edict made no change made us all angry for this reason. But we never advocated war. We imagined that diplomacy might perhaps succeed in instituting a foreign combination against the designs of the wreckers. That was our mistake, nothing worse. But we are more over misrepresented as being filled with prejudice against the people among whom we live. Because we stick to the social ideals of the Germanic peoples and prefer to mix only with those who observe them we are assumed to be the victims of that wicked race-hatred which is believed to course like malaria in the blood of European residents in the tropics. And because of this wicked race-hatred which is supposed to obsess our minds, our opinions on all questions are heavily discounted in advance. I have an idea that opinions emanating from Hongkong are especially badly off in this way. Perhaps this is how I came by the idea. At the time of the massacre of a body of missionaries near Foochow a meeting was held here in this Hall and a telegram—possibly rather an indignant message—was despatched. I fancy to the Foreign Office, protesting against the matter being treated as of no importance. I happened to be in Glasgow at the time and to see an article in Glasgow's leading morning paper on the subject. It discussed the matter with the calm detachment and disinterestedness which is easy ten thousand miles away and finished up by alluding to the meeting in Hongkong and to the telegram giving the resolution passed at it, by saying that, in any case, whatever the Foreign Office might in their wisdom decide to do, the last people whose opinion

should be considered were "the shrieking Colonists of Hongkong." This utterance indicates sufficiently well the attitude with which many Home critics view our opinions. It should be one of the aims of the China Association to correct this error; to persuade the Home folk that we are not such peculiar people as many of them assume, but men of like passions with themselves and, when it comes to business, with no more passionate views. If in writing on the Imperial Maritime Customs question we displayed more passion than would be thought proper in a Foreign Office despatch I trust it may be overlooked. The heat of our views is receiving justification continually.

Of the year's Edicts, the two to which I have alluded are by far the most important. But there have been many others all more or less displaying the old faith in the efficacy of fair words and a new belief in political machinery as such. People who believe that national character has deeper origins will not be very sanguine of great results. There is a modern tendency to underestimate the survival-value of character. As regards the latter it is, to say the least of it, doubtful whether China has changed at all, or, if at all, whether it has not been for the worse. Since the earliest days of our diplomatic relations with Mandarinism there has never been any discovery made of an active principle of good faith. We should like to record evidence of this discovery. But exciting as the events of the past year have been, there has been nothing as wildly exciting as that. There seems to be no greater avidity to meet Treaty obligations than formerly. We have noticed no sign of it in respect of the Mackay Treaty. On the contrary, evidences of a wholesale desire to repudiate engagements are chiefly reported from Peking. In this matter also there is the oddest adverse criticism of foreign residents in China for venturing to protest against the encroachment of the Chinese Government in this attitude. Our old friend the *Spectator* took us all badly to task not long ago in this matter. The editor seemed to think that in advocating resistance to Mandarinism's lapses from grace Englishmen resident in China display an unreasoning impatience with, and hostility to, the Chinese people. It is often important to keep in mind a distinction between the word China, meaning Mandarinism, and the same word used to mean the Chinese people. With these the interests of the entire foreign mercantile community are manifestly bound up. This cannot be said of Mandarinism. Though its ranks are recruited from the people, its interests are in many respects opposed to the general good. Hence the fact that the foreign merchant and the Chinese trader are frequently at one in being against the Government. Criticism of the latter by foreign residents is seldom indicative of an unsympathetic attitude towards China—the Chinese people. It may be, on the contrary, and generally is, indicative of a wish for their welfare. But without narrowing the view down so far as to make this distinction necessary I claim to speak a broad truth when I say that the British mercantile community in China is on the whole friendly to China and anxious to see her coming well out of the difficult problems of the economic revolution ahead. As the mouthpiece of the community the China Association has done its best in the past to make this plain. Englishmen I think are naturally inclined to a sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of the Chinese. Our own strong conservative instincts make us respect theirs. Emerson named the English and the Chinese as the two most conservative peoples in the world. Personally I have much in common with the leisurely medievalism that is passing away. I respect the Chinese for not letting it go lightly, and I realise the hardness of the task of conscientious officials who are called upon to find, somewhat suddenly, new methods to meet "the instant need of things." I claim that the criticisms of the Chinese Government contained in the representations made by the China Association during the year have been directed by a sane view of what constitutes genuine friendship for China. We have protested against attempts to repudiate agreements and responsibilities. I can understand China's enemies encouraging her in the repudiation

of engagements. I cannot understand those who pose as her friends condoning it. I may be old-fashioned—if so, I am glad to be—but I cannot believe that a Government any more than an individual can prosper in the long run by acquiring a reputation for unreliability. China's true friends are those who wish to see her keeping faith with the nations; meriting a good name for dependability; maintaining her credit intact; increasing her people's wealth and preventing famine in a land of plenty by improved communications and by the same means unifying her scattered strength. The welfare of China lies along these lines: not along roads involving fantastic reforms or leading to military ambitions. This is the view that has governed our policy during the past year. This is the faith that has inspired our utterances. Whether these have been of the smallest avail is a speculative question into which I do not propose to go. Many people will tell you that the work of the China Association, is, in addition to being a weariness to the flesh, mere vanity and vexation of spirit. They look for results. They ask us to show them some. It is difficult.

In this dilemma I sometimes think of a far scene and of a far other form of strife; of a morning spent in watching the Japanese artillery bombarding the east wall of the Tartar City of Peking. I remember thinking the busy gunners did not seem to be doing much good. Their shells were flying high over the battlements from whose embrasures half-naked defenders had lately been successfully preventing the efforts of storming parties of infantry to blow up the great gate which towered in front. The firing seemed too high. It did not seem to get down to the business of the attack. The shells struck the watch-tower occasionally and sent clouds of brick dust flying, but mostly they sailed over towards the Forbidden City and burst in little smoke rings. It all seemed rather ineffectual. But afterwards when we got in and wandered about the city and saw where the shells had been creating havoc and realised what the feelings of the stiff-necked Palace Officials must have been when the rain of shrapnel came down, it seemed probable that the influence of the artillery fire was perhaps after all not inconsiderable in hastening the movements of the Court. In the same way perchance these our activities may, in some unseen way, do a little good. This is the hope in which the work is carried on. Braced by it I have the temerity to invite you to vote for the adoption of the report, which has been in your hands for some days, and to pass the accounts. This I now formally move.

MR. BALLOCH—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution that the report and accounts be passed. In doing so I wish to express our gratitude for and our appreciation of the excellent work done by the Committee during the past year. I am sure you have all read the report and listened to the able speech by our Chairman with the greatest interest and admiration. You must feel that they have covered nearly all the questions that affect the interests of the British mercantile community. I noticed, however, that the Chairman did not refer to the two very important questions of currency and opium, on both of which we would have liked to have heard his opinion. I have no doubt he has excellent reasons for keeping silent. We would have liked to have heard something about the Canton-Kowloon Railway. I sincerely hope that there will be no difficulty in putting through the next agreement and that the Chinese officials will show their appreciation of the liberal manner in which they have been treated by the Hongkong Government and meet them in a fair and friendly spirit. While on the subject of officials, I would like to endorse the remarks of our Chairman regarding the criticisms that are sometimes passed by the Association on the acts of officials in China. These criticisms are made in no unfriendly spirit, and I hope the Chinese will never regard them as made in that spirit. No one of us who criticises the action of the British Government is regarded as being unfriendly to Britain, and no one who criticises the acts of the officials in China should be regarded as unfriendly towards China. I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I think the British residents of this Colony, and residents of the Far East generally, are very much indebted to the Committee for the work done during the past year. Although I am not astonished—having had a large experience—to see a sparse attendance at this meeting, I must confess to being very much astonished that the membership of the Association only amounts at the present time to 66. That is only some five per cent of the British adult male population in the Colony. In view of the excellent work done during the past year, I would venture to express the hope that we may shortly see a very substantial addition to the number.

The CHAIRMAN—Before putting the resolution I may briefly suggest to Mr. Balloch the reasons why I have said nothing on the subject of opium and with regard to the difficulties of the question of the reform of China's currency. As regards the latter, I do not feel that I know enough to enable me to dogmatize. As regards the opium question, the time to speak is perhaps not yet. Proposals made by the Chinese Government to repress the vice in their own country will, I am sure, have everybody's sympathy, and when they have shown that they are in earnest in the endeavour to stamp out the growth of opium in China I think it may perhaps be well for the British Government to take some action in the matter. As regards the Canton-Kowloon Railway I think the report states all that is to be said on the matter. I hope that the Chinese officials will, as Mr. Balloch desires, play the game.

The resolution was passed, and on the motion of Mr. BALLOCH, seconded by Mr. COCHRANE, the committee was re-elected *en bloc*. This concluded the proceedings.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting to members the annual report of the Hongkong branch of the China Association it has hitherto been the custom to publish in the form of an appendix the correspondence upon which it is based. The necessity for this in the present instance has been obviated by the London Branch issuing an interim report containing the principal letters despatched from here during 1906. The local Committee has therefore decided to base this year's report upon that communication, with the following results:—

Our work as displayed in the contents will be seen to divide itself into four distinct series of letters and telegrams dealing with as many separate questions. These communications have been arranged in groups under the particular heading to which they refer and in chronological order within each group.

The first group comprises correspondence relating to the incident of the forcible seizure by the Viceroy of Canton of a quantity of coal in effective possession of a British Bank. Representations of the illegality of this proceeding, simultaneously made from several quarters, soon brought sufficient pressure to bear upon the Viceroy to persuade him of the inadvisability of persevering in an unwarrantable action and the matter was eventually settled to the satisfaction of the complainants. It is anticipated that the representations made from here on this subject will meet with the approval of members.

Similarly it is anticipated that the more voluminous correspondence referring to the Kowloon-Canton Railway will not be disappointed of. There has been but one opinion in the Association these many years as to the importance of pushing on with that enterprise. The thanks of the Committee are due and are hereby gratefully rendered to H.E. the Governor for placing at our disposal translations made originally for his information from articles appearing in the Chinese newspapers on the subject of the scheme to build an opposition line from Canton to Whampoa. Sir Matthew Nathan has kept a close watch upon the development of this idea and his helpful courtesy has enabled us, as will be seen from the correspondence, to supply the London Branch with evidence supplementary to that which we derived independently from other sources showing the drift of native opinion and displaying the attitude of the Provincial Authorities towards the scheme. Its danger to the future prosperity of Hongkong has formed the subject of many representations from this Association during the last two years but is now no longer thought

to be threatening in view of the recent success attending the negotiations of the British and Chinese Corporation in Peking. A letter written subsequent to those appearing in the report in question records the Colony's satisfaction in respect of the signing of the final agreement for the loan required to build the Chinese section of the line and expresses the hope that the supplementary agreement, necessary to ensure harmonious cooperation between the Colonial Government and the Provincial Officials in the working of the line as a whole, will soon follow.

As regards the Association's activities in directing attention to piracy on the West River the aim of agitation has been to invoke the aid of diplomacy in an endeavour to instil into the minds of the Provincial Authorities the idea that in the long run it is less inconvenient and more economical to provide funds requisite for the repression of the evil than to misappropriate these and chance the consequences. In some degree this object would appear to have been achieved. Recent information is to the effect that the Authorities are at the moment commendably active. They have supplied Admiral Li Chun, a capable leader, with a considerable number of "braves" and he is reported to be infusing energy into the operations of guard boats stationed every 3 miles and of armed launches, with steam up, stationed every 20 miles along the river bank. As far as the river is concerned these efforts are producing excellent results and in the Delta, also, there is said to be some improvement. These results support our contention that the suppression of piracy is merely a question of men and money. Not inconceivably, the new zeal displayed in this matter may have derived some impetus from the outcry made here.

The same reflection occurs with regard to the agitation against the change made in the Administration of the Imperial Maritime Customs by the Edict of the 9th Mo. Bad as the position is, there can hardly be any doubt that it would have been far worse but for the vigour of the representations made in the English Press, especially in *The Times*, and by the London Branch of the Association against the adoption on the part of the British Government of a *non-possumus* policy. These representations with the resulting diplomatic protests, can hardly have failed to produce a certain restraining effect upon the minds of the leaders of the Young China Party in Peking and although so far ostensibly foiled, may yet be regarded as having attained a measure of unseen success.

In the last division of the Hongkong section of the report will be found a record of representations made on the subject of the disabilities imposed upon British Shipping by certain ordinances forbidding owners to carry contract labourers. The reasons advanced from here in support of a movement to obtain the repeal of these Ordinances will, it is hoped, recommend themselves to members.

Other subjects have engaged attention and a regular general correspondence has been maintained by way of keeping the London Committee in touch with local opinion. The entire correspondence of the year will be laid on the table for the inspection of members at the annual general meeting.

The annual general meeting has been usually called in the Autumn, but this year it was decided to hold it at the end of the year, the idea being that it is a more satisfactory arrangement to adopt the natural divisions of the calendar than to follow the old method by which two years were made to overlap. However, this is an unimportant matter. It will be a still better arrangement if the London Branch decides to issue an interim report every year on the eve of the annual dinner, thus relieving this Branch, as in the present occasion it stands relieved, of any necessity to publish. The corporate nature of the Association is best indicated and served by reports bringing together and displaying in unity the work of the various branches.

A statement of accounts is appended showing a credit balance of \$629. The dissipation of our funds, due, in the main, to long telegrams on the Customs question, will not be grudged by members who share the Committee's view that its solution is a matter more vital and far-reaching, in interest and importance, to trade in

general and British trade in particular, than any with which the Association has yet been called upon to deal. It is now proposed to collect the usual yearly subscription of \$10 to carry on the work during 1907. A list of members is appended.

Since the last annual general meeting there have been several changes in the personnel of the local Committee which now consists of Mr. A. G. Wood, Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, the Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. W. A. Cruickshank and M. STEWART, Chairman.

The accounts mentioned show that \$1,315.65 was spent on telegrams, other expenses being very moderate indeed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION SPEECH.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS,"]

Hongkong, January 8th.

Sir—Having been in the Tientsin settlement during the so-called 'second siege,' and having witnessed the taking of the Native City at the end of the period, I fancy I remember enough about different kinds of shells to enable me to appreciate the use of shrapnel. In any case I am correct in the supposition, advanced in your leader of date, that I did not imagine them to have been employed by the Japanese with the idea of battering down the walls of Peking. That some such twist might be given to my meaning was a risk which I foresaw. I mentioned this when I saw you on Sunday. You volunteered the opinion that only hypercriticism would discover the point. It therefore surprised me to find you using the idiom with which I had provided you, to cast ridicule. With the rest of your gibes I have no quarrel. Those of your readers who know anything of the work of the China Association will realise now wide of the mark they strike. You are welcome to an imaginary 'score,' in as far as your remarks affect me personally. But as regards your criticism of the views put forward by the China Association on the subject of the Customs Edict, I have to say that they are simply the views of the representative men of the British Mercantile Community in Hongkong, Shanghai and throughout the length and breadth of China.

They are also the views of all men of any note who have now, or who have ever had, first-hand dealings with Chinese officials. Sir Robert Hart at the outset gave it as his opinion that the object aimed at by the change made was "the supersession and absorption of the I.M.C. Administration." There is no need to seek higher authority, though the view has been endorsed by every man who can in any sense be regarded as an authority on China at all. In scoffing at the China Association for seeking to institute means of defeating that object you run the risk of seeming to set yourself up above all these men, and the ridicule which you aim to throw threatens to fall flat and to cover you.

Yours, etc.

M. STEWART.

We fear that outside comment, with which we have nothing to do, has led Mr. Stewart to misconstrue our purely academic remarks. It is our pure misfortune if any tendency to "gibe" or "scoff" be apparent; the comments were meant to be serious. With regard to the reference to shrapnel, we thought to dispose of a hypercritical suggestion which the writer himself complained of to us; the words "we are sure he did not mean, etc." were warranted by his own declaration, and would not have been used at all had we not thought him desirous of having repetitions of the said hypercriticism forestalled. We can only regret that in trying to be helpful we should have fallen under so mean a suspicion. But then, as our comments pointed out, mistakes are made by looking too much for motives. We hope Mr. Stewart will accept our assurance that he has misread our motives. Our words are expected to carry only their plain meaning and face value; they are, as a rule, carefully chosen.—Ed.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the tenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday, 26th January, states:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts made up to 31st December, 1906.

The gross earnings for the past year amount to \$124,050.81 and after deducting all expenses, remuneration to General Managers, Consulting Committee's and Auditors' fees, there remains a balance of \$95,855.75 which it is recommended be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund ... \$15,000.00
To pay a dividend of 8 per cent ... 80,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account ... 855.75

Consulting Committee—In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Dr. J. W. Noble and H. P. White retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th January, 1907.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1906.
PROFIT AND LOSS.

Charges	\$	c.
Consulting Committee's fees	6,971.95	
Auditors' fees	4,000.00	
Depreciation on Investment of Reserve Fund	2,000.00	
Balance	5,557.50	
	95,855.75	
	\$112,585.20	
Balance brought forward from last year	\$	c.
Interest received on Mortgages, Loans, &c.	4,791.73	
Less Interest paid, commission, &c.	\$124,050.81	
	16,267.34	107,793.47
	\$112,585.20	

BALANCE SHEET.

Capital 200,000 Shares at \$10	\$2,000,000.00	
Less 100,000 Shares un-issued	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Reserve Fund	100,000.00	
Sundry Creditors	22,384.08	
Company's Bankers	115,719.33	
Balance of Profit and Loss	95,855.75	
	\$1,333,959.16	
ASSETS.	\$	c.
Loans On Provident System	\$553,634.49	
On Mortgages, Shares &c.	645,442.72	1,199,077.21
Investment of Reserve Fund		
4,250 shares Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	\$21=\$89,250.00	
2,500 shares China Light & Power Co., Ltd. at \$10	\$25,000.00	114,250.00
Sundry Debtors	16,777.49	
Cash	3,854.46	
	\$1,333,959.16	

COMMERCIAL.

KOBE MARKET REPORT.

The Kobe Market Report, published under the direction of the Kobe Foreign Board of Trade, and dated (Kobe) Hiogo, 28th December, 1906, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Cotton.—American.—There has been but a very slight fluctuation since our last report, and prices to-day for "forward" remain at Yen 33.35 as before. No important transactions have been reported. Stocks are scarce, and Spot Middling is quoted at Yen 34. Indian.—While no important forward business has been reported, some of the Japanese importers, who are closely connected with mills, have been able to put through some orders. Spot business to a small extent has been transacted at low rates, but owing to the approaching New Year holidays, the market generally has remained very quiet, with the exception of some staple grades such as Broach, Tinnevely, etc. Closing quotations are: Best Broach Yen 28.00; Yeothmal, Yen 23.00; Akola, Khamguam, Yen 23.00; Bengal, Yen 20.00. Chinese.—Some transactions have been reported, but only to high

rates, business generally has been small. Prices are: Best quality, Yen 26.00. Shirtings.—Dull. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Quiet. Worsteds and Woollens.—Only a small business passing. Window Glass.—Improvement noticeable although the equivalent of home prices has not been reached yet. Metals.—More inquiry at better prices. Sugar.—Buyers show no interest in beet. Stocks are much reduced. Cane.—Hongkong Refined. There is no inquiry. Raw.—A little more demand made itself felt, but the ideas of sellers and buyers are still very far apart. Osaka Refined.—At the auction held at Osaka on the 17th December 5,200 bags changed hands at prices showing no variation from those last obtained. Rice.—A fair quantity of Rangoon Rice has been contracted for February to March shipment.

EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—Market firm with upward tendency. Transactions reported.—Whale, 1,000 cases. Shark, 400 cases; Sardine 1,000 cases; Herring, 1,000 cases. Quotation per 100 kin. Whale, Yen 2.75; Shark Yen 8.50; Sardine Yen 8.25; Herring Yen 8.00. Copper.—Only small parcels have been offered and were promptly taken out of the market at ever increasing prices. Rice.—Market steady, very little business doing. Cotton Yarn.—Export demand shows some improvement. Country demand continues strong. Stocks very low. Vegetable Wax.—Market steady at quotations; the transactions reported during the first half of this month, 2,250 cases, have not been maintained as only 400 cases are reported during the latter half. Refiners, however, look for higher prices. Matting.—The negotiations referred to in last report are still in progress, and meantime deliveries of Matting against contracts are very meagre and stock goods are unobtainable. Prices continue firm. Straw Braid.—Practically no change to report. A strong demand continued to exist for many descriptions and prices have been well maintained in consequence. Chip Braid.—A good enquiry existed for this, but the high prices ruling somewhat restricted new business.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of 10th January, state that 21 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 77,600 tons of coal. Since December 28th, 17 steamers have arrived with a total of 53,500 tons of coal. Quotations:—

Cardiff.....\$15.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Australian.....\$10.00 to \$11.00 ex-ship, quiet.
Yubari Lump.....\$12.00 nominal.
Miki Lump.....\$12.00 nominal.
Mojji Lump.....\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Mojji Unscreened \$6.00 to \$7.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump.....\$7.75 to \$8.50 steady.
Bengal.....\$9.00 to \$9.50 nominal.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee in his report, dated Hongkong, 11th January, states:—The market as yet shows no signs of returning activity, the only sales during the fortnight being those noted below. Quotations have again receded \$1 to \$2 per bale, and holders are willing to submit to still greater concessions if any large quantity could be placed, but without an outlet for their purchases dealers are not inclined to increase their holdings or interest, and are buying only for immediate wants. Demand has, as usual, run upon favourite superior tickets of No. 10s, the other counts being more or less neglected. Receipts during the interval have been moderate, and with an extensive off-take for shipments to Shanghai and the Coast Ports stocks show a very substantial decrease on last estimate. The market, however, closes quiet and tending downwards.

Sales of the interval aggregate 3,760 bales, arrivals amount to 3,307, unsold stock estimated at 141,000 and uncleared stock at 17,000 bales.

Local Manufacture.—Nothing doing.

Japanese Yarn:—No business is reported.

Raw Cotton.—Despite small arrivals of Indian descriptions the only business of the fortnight is the sale of a parcel of New Superfine Bengals at \$20. In China kinds 53 bales Thongchow have changed hands at \$23. Quotations are Bengals \$19 to \$22 and China \$22 to \$24.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Ra. 166½ for T/T, and Ra. 167½ for Post. On Shanghai 73 and on Japan 110½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 5th instant, viz:—

Indian:—A fairly large business has been done at declining prices, sales amounting to 3,500 bales, No. 2's forming the bulk of the settlements and market closing unsteady. Estimated unsold and uncleared stock about 160,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market very steady with a strong demand, sales amounting to close upon 2,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 54 to 93 for No. 16s, and Tls. 97 to 99½ for No. 20s.

Locals:—Continue very quiet and no business is reported.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 3rd January, 1907, states:—The new year has opened very auspiciously and with prospects greatly improved, in fact they are far brighter than anyone could have hoped for a few weeks ago. The year just closed has certainly been a trying one, and for the greater part of it many of the participants in this trade must have felt that they were on the edge of a precipice. Once more Dame Fortune has smiled benignly on our traders and saved them from calamities that at times have looked inevitable. How many must have thanked their lucky stars for getting out of tight corners by what seemed the merest fluke! Calculations have been constantly upset in the most unexpected manner, everyone working in the dark, so to speak, with not one important factor that could be depended upon from day to day. The tendency of exchange has been upwards the whole year, contrary to all expectation or desire, it being so apparent now that lower rates are essential to the well-being and commercial prosperity of the country, so long as its finances are on a silver basis. Then, too, Cotton has kept on a level far above all anticipations. The possibilities of that market have defied calculations, and the quite unlooked for developments that have taken place in the home consuming markets have been as radical as they were unforeseen. Starting the year with almost overwhelming stocks that were replenished nearly as rapidly as they were drawn upon, through the lavish orders that were placed far ahead the previous year, comparatively little fresh business has been transacted in staple makes of goods throughout the period under review, and gradually the market is returning to a more normal and satisfactory condition of things. As regards the business done during the interval the market has felt the holidays much more than it did the previous week; but though comparatively little has been passing in fresh transactions the great improvement in clearances shows that the local dealers are busy reselling their holdings and are replacing by forward purchases at covering rates when obtainable. The Manchester market is very strong with a good enquiry for China, and there is no doubt that sales are being replaced to some extent, but in most lines the heavy stocks still here rather retard the business. The Liverpool Cotton market has apparently been closed since last Friday, or else the telegrams have been delayed by the severe weather prevailing in Europe, but the quotations received last Saturday were 5.70d. for Mid-American and 10½d. for Egyptian. The export figures for last month are not yet in. There are various rumours concerning the New York market which need some confirmation. One is that 70,000 bales Domestic have been offered this market, but it is extremely unlikely the Exchange Banks would finance such a large quantity in face of the enormous amount they have locked up in goods already here. And it is to be hoped they will treat the whole of China en bloc, and not allow the outside markets to buy direct to the detriment of stocks here. The direct Tientsin business, however, is done on the endless chain system, and fresh supplies have to be continually coming along; on which the importer can get two months' credit from the Bank and deliver to the native buyers on receiving payment for the previous shipment! That is why they are trying to buy now in New York, although they could get the goods much cheaper here, but hard cash has to be paid. However, it is certain goods have been offered to this market and some business has been done, and at the same time 1,000 bales, it is said, for direct shipment to Tientsin. The Yarn market is very quiet at the moment, the few sales of Indian spinnings denoting a slightly weaker feeling amongst some holders. The fairly heavy buying that has been going on during the last few weeks evidently demands a lot up, which the holidays have provided the requisite opportunity for doing. It is reported from Bombay that a number of speculative operators are in difficulties, and it is hoped that the market will soon be purged from these pests that have been doing so much harm to the trade for years past.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th January, 1907.—Rates generally during the week have ruled firmer, and in several important cases show decided improvements. A fair business has been put through, but in most stocks it has been restricted by the demand being greater than the supply, and the market closes firm with an apparently upward tendency. Exchange on London, T/T, closes at 2s. 3d., and on Shanghai at Tls. 73.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week ruled somewhat erratic, and shares changed hands almost simultaneously at \$82½ and \$825, the latter rate, however, being the more in evidence. Later on, the report of new loans to China and Siam gave a fillip to the market, both here and in London, and a small demand was only met by a rise in the rate to \$835, at which a few shares changed hands. The London rate has risen from £94. 10s. to £97, the latter being the last advice received per Reuter's on the 9th inst. The market closes with further buyers and no shares obtainable under \$840.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been done at \$750, buyers ruling the market at the close. A few small lots of China Traders have been offered during the week, but as the extended time for converting the scrip into Unions expired on the 31st ulto, no buyers came forward, and the rate fell to a nominal one of \$90. The Northern Insurances remain dull and without and local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have improved their position and with an unsatisfied demand at \$335 have been placed at \$340, closing with an unsatisfied demand at the latter rate. Chinas continue in demand, and small sales have been made at \$93½, the market closing with further buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been done during the week at \$29, \$29½ and \$30, closing with probable sellers at the last rate. Indo-Chinas, after receding in Shanghai to Tls. 60, close firmer with local buyers at \$86, and at Tls. 62½ in Shanghai. China Manilas have found buyers at \$21½ and \$22. Star Ferries have improved to \$30 with sales, while the new issue has buyers at \$20. Douglases have declined to \$36 without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are reported to have changed hands at \$123, \$122 and \$121, the market closing firmer with small buyers at \$123. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Raubs have ruled weak, and with sellers and no buyers at \$9½ the rate fell to \$9, at which a few shares changed hands, the market closing quiet at the latter rate. Charbonnages remain unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue to rule rather firmer, and in the absence of sellers to satisfy the demand at \$145, the rate improved to \$147, with buyers and small sales. Kowloon Wharfs have been negotiated at the improved rate of \$96, and there are a few sellers at that rate at the time of closing. New Amoy Docks have further declined to \$15 without sales. Shanghai Docks have continued weak, and on the announcement of no dividend have fallen to \$102 with sellers, both locally and in Shanghai. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharfs have improved their position considerably, and have advanced to \$245 buyers in Shanghai.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands with a small demand have further improved, and after a few small sales at \$107, \$108 and \$109 are now required for at \$110. Hongkong Hotels have found buyers at \$112, and close steady at that rate. Humphreys have further advanced to \$11½, closing with buyers. Shanghai Lands are quoted in the north at Tls. 101.

COTTON MILLS.—In the Northern mills the only change to report is a drop in Laou Kung Mows to Tls. 103. Hongkongs have also receded to \$12½ sellers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell Moores are on offer at the reduced rate of \$90, and Ropes

at \$21. China Providents, Dairy Farms and Electricos have found buyers at last weeks quotations, China Providents being still in demand at time of closing. Cements have been placed in fair lots at \$21 and \$21½, closing steady at the latter rate. China Light and Powers are enquired for at \$9½, after a small sale at that rate. We have nothing further to report.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	\$835, buyers London, £97
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£6	\$49, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.25, sales & buy.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 64
Hongkong	\$10	\$12½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 84
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 103
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 335, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16½, sales
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$96, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$147, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$15, sellers
Shanghai Dock and	Tls. 100	Tls. 102
Eng. Co., Ltd.		
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 245
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$21½
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½, sales & buy.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$112
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$230, buyers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$21, sales & sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$7, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$297½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$93½, sales & buy.
China Traders	\$25	\$90
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$340, sales & buy.
North China	\$25	Tls. 82½, sellers
Union	\$100	\$750, sales & buy.
Yangtze	\$60	\$160, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$110, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$11½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 101
West Point Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 60, n. issue.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$450, nominal
Raubs	18 10	\$9
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$123, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$21, sellers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$22
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$36, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, buyers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$86, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$30½, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30, sales & buy.
Do. New	\$5	\$20, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$25½
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$30, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$8
Watkins	\$10	\$2.50, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, Jan. 11th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2/3
Bank Bills, on demand	2/3½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/3½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/3½
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	284
Credits 4 months' sight	288½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	231
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	54½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	110½
ON MANILA.—On demand	110½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	4½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	135½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	62½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$8.85
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$48.20
BAR SILVER, per oz.	31½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th January.—Freights remain about the same as last reported. From Saigon to this, 12 cents per picul last; to one port Philippines, 24/26 cents per picul according to size; to Japan, 26/27 cents per picul; to Singapore, 13 cents per picul. From North Coast Java to this, 25 cents per picul last. From South Japan Coal port to this, \$1.20 per ton nominal; but Japanese steamers are reported to have been fixed at as low as \$1.00 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Falk—Norwegian steamer, 1,380 tons, Wakamatsu to Hongkong and Canton, \$1.30 and \$1.85 per ton.
Chipshing—British steamer, 1,199 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong (part cargo), 25 cents per picul.
Fri—Norwegian steamer, 359 tons, two ports North Coast Java to Hongkong, private terms.
Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Singapore to Shanghai, (timber), \$10,600 lump sum.
Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 13 cents per picul.
Amoy—German steamer, 732 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.
Ulv—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul Canton, 14 cents per picul.
Chunshang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.
Taiwan—British steamer, 1,042 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.
Pheumpenh—British steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.
Tinhon—British steamer, 902 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12/14 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report of January 3rd 1907, states:—As was only to be expected there has been very little doing on our Homeward Freight market during the past fortnight and there is nothing special to report except that the last boat on the New York berth via Suez was heavily over engaged owing to an unexpected rush of tea. Coastwise.—This market is also pretty much in the same state as at last time of writing:—There is no demand worth speaking of in any direction, whilst tonnage seeking employment is plentiful and likely to remain so until next March.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 46/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre; 4/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez)—Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland)—Tea G. 31½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at \$1.80 per ton weight on measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January—

ARRIVALS.

- 6, Amigo, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 6, Ichia, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 6, Yarra, French str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Changchow, British str., from Saigon.
- 7, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 7, Java, British str., from London.
- 7, Karin, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
- 7, Kinkiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Kiyō Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.
- 7, Leongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 7, Onsang, British str., from Moji.
- 7, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Silesia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 7, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
- 7, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Lydia, German str., from Saigon.
- 8, Prominent, Norw. str., from Pulo Laut.
- 8, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
- 9, Fukushima Maru, Jap. str., from Auping.
- 9, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 9, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Hohenstaufen, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Iohang, British str., from Hongay.
- 9, Ithaka, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 9, Japan, British str., from Calcutta.
- 9, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 9, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
- 9, Kashima Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 9, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 9, Oopack, British str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Arcadia, British str., from Bombay.
- 10, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 10, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
- 10, Lyra, American str., from Tacoma.
- 10, Proteus, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Simla, British str., from Shanghai.

January—

DEPARTURES.

- 7, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
- 7, Chipshing, British str., for Bangkok.
- 7, Dakota, British str., for Seattle.
- 7, Memnon, British str., for Kobe.
- 8, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
- 8, Aloinous, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, America Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
- 8, Chiynen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Irfar, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Java, British str., for Yokohama.
- 8, Kina, Danish str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
- 8, Nachew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 8, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Yarra, French str., for Europe.
- 9, Amigo, German str., for Pakhoi.
- 9, Halvard, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
- 9, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 9, Hunan, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Hongay.
- 9, Kiyō Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
- 9, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Nanshan, British str., for Hongay.
- 9, Oopack, British str., for Samarang.
- 9, Soshu Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 9, Tartar, British str., for Vancouver.
- 10, Aeor, British str., for Newcastle.
- 10, Daphne, German str., for Vladivostock.
- 10, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
- 10, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Orwell, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Rajaburi, German str., for Swatow.
- 10, Silesia, German str., for Yokohama.
- 10, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
- 10, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Kobe.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Dakota*, from Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Garrison, Miss E. E. Longford, Misses J. and M. Butchart, Mrs. H. M. Clalland, Major and Mrs. D. E. McCarthy, Messrs. Gertrude and Daniel McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rse, Jr., Mrs. F. H. McKew, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gavin, Mrs. J. M. Briester, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Aul, Mrs. V. Hays, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Lee and 2

children, Mrs. E. A. Nebeker, Messrs. Herbert Nebeker, W. N. Steirnagle, H. R. Hasch, A. B. Morrill, B. W. Hodges, C. E. Pratt, F. W. Scott, S. D. Sarason, W. C. Gaisburg, D. L. Rader, Mrs. T. B. Stewart, Messrs. G. W. Dillaut, A. N. Quayle and E. Clifford.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Bremen, &c., Messrs. John Artberg and Ivo Appelmann, Mr. and Mrs. Adams and children, Mr. Adrianus, Mr. and Mrs. Allers, Mr. Chas. Amarasuriya, Mrs. C. Bruderer, Messrs. Bruderer, Max Biedermann, F. Bub, Joseph de Burlet, Mr. and Mrs. J. v. Borsznyi, Miss J. M. Batson, Mrs. Herbert G. Bois, Mr. P. H. Burger, Mrs. Dornbus Borchers-Sickens, Mr. Fritz Bisetzky, Mrs. Reints Bok and children, Mrs. Foster-Barham and children, Messrs. Bohmer, J. de Beer, Karl Brehm, Carl Bamber, A. F. van den Berg, Mr. and Mrs. Georg W. Clausen, Miss Alice Crane, Capt. Commandant and Mrs. Puck Chandoir, Messrs. Cacilius, Cobanus, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Messrs. J. H. Croockewit, A. B. Dunlop, H. C. Davies, Dr. Denekamp, Messrs. Maria Rosa Dinger, Alexander Erdmann-Jessnitzer, Miss Laura A. Esly, Messrs. H. Ensinger, Kurt Fleischer, Mrs. A. Fischer, Messrs. Albert Lorenz Fischer, Clementine Fettig, Rev. A. R. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. S. Gibson, Messrs. Odilo Grabow, Fridoline Geiger, Theresa Gotz, C. L. Geiger, Jr., G. Goudriaan, Pr. Lieut. and Mrs. Holger Haaschild, Administrator George Heine, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hunte, Messrs. H. Hildburgh, W. L. Hildburgh, Mrs. Hynes, Mr. Fridolin Hofer, Misses Amy and Annie Hunter, Miss M. Holmes, Miss Hamilton, Messrs. D. W. Hampshire, James Hitchings, Hieronymus, Rev. J. A. Heal, Mrs. Hitching, Miss E. Hoyer, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Hermann, Messrs. Gertrud, Hans and Walter Hermann, Mr. Joh. F. Hoffmeister, Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Isenberg, Dr. R. Ikeda, Mr. J. Judge, Miss Jacques, Mrs. Jentink, Messrs. Jentink, Jr., M. P. Kesseleff, Emil Kinch, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. der Kinderen and child, Messrs. W. Kennedy, W. Knop, Kasner, K. Kay, G. F. Lobe, Robert Lenz, H. Laenestein, Mrs. K. Lancaster, Mrs. O. R. L. J. Magnee and child, Miss X. A. Manning, Mrs. W. C. Mason, Mr. M. M. Matheson, Mrs. F. Matheson, Miss V. M. Matheson, Miss Mills, Messrs. Malteser, Joaquin Mustaros, Mrs. Monaratt, Messrs. D. M. Murray, Kath. Mohring, Miss F. L. A. Mackay, Miss Martha Christine Monster, Miss F. Myers, Messrs. Chas. Muhlachlegel, J. A. F. Morzer-Bruyns, Sir Nathaniel Nathan, Mr. Graf Jan Orłowski, Mrs. and Miss O'Connell, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred v. Pawlikowski-Cholewa, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Playfair, Miss Playfair, Mr. Hermann Panne, Mrs. Paterson, Messrs. Jean Proumen, A. J. Pruett, Dr. Josef Petri, Mrs. Parsons and child, Messrs. J. Rieken, Hermann Reyss, A. W. Reinhold, Harry Richrath, H. A. Ragg, Gebhard Rudell, Miss Reed, Messrs. J. P. D. Roggeland, A. van Reenen, Mr. and Mrs. A. Strasse and child, Mr. Fritz Schwarzkopf, Mrs. C. E. Strode-Hall, Dr. Scholz, Messrs. Georg Schulz, Jos Sigwanz, Seifart, C. F. van der Speck, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and children, Mr. Silverius, Mrs. H. J. Stanley, Messrs. Sebald Trentle, F. von Umlauff, Richard Veit, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Veerkamp, Mr. Vitalis, Mr. and Mrs. Herm. Vortisch, Messrs. L. Wieand, Theod. Willi, Miss Ella Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Wigham and child, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Walter, Dr. Andrew Wight, Miss H. J. Worthington, Miss Ella Wrem, Lieut. Col. and Mrs. F. du B. Whaitte and child, Messrs. Wilhelm Wilken, Emil Werner, Wickerlink and Gerhard Zeyer.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Barclay, Mr. and Mrs. H. Redmond and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Haldeman, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cory, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. S. Stephens and servant, Mrs. C. L. Watt, Mrs. T. H. Brunning, Mrs. J. B. Lennig, Mrs. B. Chaney, Miss W. Keck, Miss G. Dreisbach, Miss E. Redmond, Miss D. Wood, Miss C. A. Gerhart, Miss C. E. Gerhart, Miss M. Lennig, Miss E. J. de B. Lennig, Miss M. E. Barrett, Miss L. M. Patterson, Col. C. S. Murphy, Dr. A. B. Talbot, Capt. T. A. Campbell, Messrs. W. W. Sheppard, J. A. McKenzie, L. E. Case, H. L. Walters, H. Redmond, V. P. King, V. W. Lamar, J. Barnhard, C. J. von Schaardenburg, F. H. Buck, Jr., H. V. Boughlog, G. M. Lack, S. Wolff, S. Moutrie, E. J. Moses, J. F. Schurch, C. E. Stensholt, B.

Blumenthal, W. M. Robertson, A. Henderson, C. W. Frankel and servant, R. Fischer, A. H. Mancell and W. A. Hirst.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong from Kobe, Mr. C. M. Arratoon; from Shanghai, Mr. H. Mandl, Capt. Brissand Desmillet, Miss Hamilton, Messrs. C. C. Scott, Bavier, Rev. Fouque, Miss Rebecca, Mr. Faborelli, Mr. and Mrs. Halberg and infant; for Saigon from Shanghai, Mr. Thouronde and Mrs. Dam; for Singapore from Kobe, Mr. Abdul Ali; from Shanghai, Miss Rose; for Colombo from Yokohama, Mr. Nicault; for Djibouti from Shanghai, Mr. Mathelin; for Marseilles from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Portier, General and Mrs. Lefevre and 2 daughters, Dr. Cazeneuve, Messrs. Chandon, Trilles, Charnay, Mr. and Mrs. Valmier and infant, Messrs. Jeannot, Menant, Melchior and Isabel.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong from Calcutta Mr. Sanchez de Mirandes; from Singapore, Mr. Marrah; from Saigon, Messrs. William Pratt, Trony Dien, A. B. Shillard, Rev. Richard N. Tourard, and Miss Graziello Camin.

Per *Arcadia*, for Hongkong from London, Rev. A. Fourget, Mrs. G. Sinclair, Messrs. L. Thiel, C. Tredwin and J. N. Green; from Marseilles, Messrs. W. A. Orden and H. Layng, Mr. and Mrs. Brookston, Mr. W. E. Storey, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cochran, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Cochran; from Gibraltar, Mr. J. R. M. Cheeseman; from Brindisi, Rev. and Mrs. Alsop, Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd; from Colombo, Mr. Maguire; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Cole; from Singapore, Mr. A. N. Paulikowski, Mr. and Mrs. Gilson; for Manila from London, Mrs. C. Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and child; for Shanghai from London, Messrs. Dunn and J. Dyson; from Marseilles, Messrs. J. Patterson, E. C. Wilton and F. Raby; from Brindisi, Mr. W. S. Anderson; from Bombay, Mr. S. Wajeebhoy; from Singapore, Mr. McBayn; for Yokohama from London, Mr. and Mrs. Hayward and Mr. H. G. Smith; from Brindisi, Mr. Monson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Dakota*, for Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rse, Mr. and Mrs. N. Gavin, Mr. and Mrs. Korahale Altas, Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. James W. Price, Messrs. I. B. Jacob, Van These de Pres, W. B. Hull and W. N. Chandler.

Per *America Maru*, for San Francisco, &c., Miss E. V. Scripps, Dr. C. B. Porter, Mrs. J. P. Reveridge and daughters, Mrs. Bell and daughters, Miss C. E. Whitcomb, Miss A. M. Kilham, Miss E. D. Howe, Miss L. B. Kilham, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. McCurdy, Mrs. and Miss Umbsen, Mrs. Duncan, Messrs. H. J. C. Large, John R. Bradley, H. Thompson and H. F. Hawley.

Per *Oceanien*, for Shanghai, Mr. S. See, Mr. Frère Mariate, and Mr. P. F. Harnois; for Kobe, Mr. Prott.

Per *Yarra*, for Saigon, Mr. C. J. Van Schaardenburg, Mr. Bickart, Miss Audin Lacour, and Mr. and Mrs. Gaspard; for Singapore, Mr. V. Brooke, Mr. W. A. Graham, Mr. Frank Vincent, Mr. W. Leahy, Mr. C. P. Stewart, Mr. A. Stolle, Mr. W. Frentzel, Dr. Hirschfeld, Mr. Chas. W. Frankel, Miss Paterson, Mr. V. G. Savi, and Mr. F. M. Wright; for Colombo, Mr. C. W. M. Broth, and Mr. T. V. Hays; for Bombay, Mr. H. C. Gotla and Mr. H. D. Mullan; for Marseilles, Mr. H. Suter, Mr. and Mrs. Rotario, Mr. Luis Antonio de Nogueira, Mr. Antonio Diniz, Mr. Joaquim Marques, and Mr. Sebastiao dos Santos.

Per *Hitachi Maru*, for London, &c., Lieut. Wells, R. N. and Mrs. Wells and infant, Mrs. Outerbridge and two children, Mrs. Niebet, Dr. Shinodaira, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Coomber and infant, Master F. C. Coomber, Miss B. C. Coomber, Dr. and Mrs. Trushoff and infant, Miss Lu din, Mrs. Onbais, Messrs. W. M. Browell, F. F. Gaetling, W. M. Robertson, A. N. Henderson, F. Pollock, R. P. Silby, Selrethdas and Dr. Gomes.

Per *Tartar*, for Vancouver, &c., Messrs. J. D. Stobark, L. Greenwald, B. F. Shields, and Anderson.

Printed and published by BERTHAM AUGUSTUS HAY, for the Concerned, at 10A, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office 181, Fleet Street, E.C.